



Mount Vernon Advisor
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon
February 2018



Sign up for the Mount Vernon Advisor



Dear Neighbors,

February is one of my favorite months. For the past 24 years, that I have the pleasure of **bringing our American history and democracy to life.**

Through presentations of my favorite president and role model, Abraham

Lincoln, I am able to **bring history to life** and connect it with students, community and our lives today; to tell Lincoln's story; to engage a new generation in all that makes this Country great. As President-Elect Lincoln said, "I hold the value of life is to improve one's condition. Whatever is calculated to advance the condition of the honest, struggling laboring man, so far as my judgment will enable me to judge of a correct thing, I am for that thing."

Throughout the month, we have many reasons to **celebrate the history and events** that make up the fabric of our American spirit. As you are celebrating **Presidents' Day** and **African American History month**, I encourage you to take time to visit some of the true historic treasures in our District. While everyone knows the **Mount Vernon Estate** was home to our first president, the Mount Vernon District is home to more historic sites than any other area in Northern Virginia. We are also home to one of Fairfax's oldest and most historic communities, **Gum Springs**, and the oldest documented African American family in the Country, the **Quander Family**.

Gum Springs was founded by West Ford, a former slave owned by George Washington's family, who acquired the property in 1833. Gum Springs became a refuge for runaways and recently freed slaves to find safe haven. Today, **Gum Springs has more than 2,500**

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residents, and as many as 500 are descendants of the original families. The [Gum Springs Historical Society's Museum and Cultural Center](#) was founded to celebrate and preserve this historic community's artifacts, photographs and information on the residents and founding families of Gum Springs.

The Mount Vernon community owes its **gratitude to the Quander family**, a long-time pillar of our District, which has **provided property for schools** and, recently, a **property adjacent to Quander Road school that provides connective green space** to the Fairchild Property (behind the Kings Crossing Walmart), all of which we are working to make a future park. To learn more about the Quander family, watch the recent [WUSA9 story told by Michael Quander](#).

The **major historic sites** in our District, from George Mason's home, [Gunston Hall](#), to the distillery at [Washington's Gristmill](#), from Frank Lloyd Wright's architecture at the [Pope-Leighey House](#) to the war history at [Fort Hunt Park](#), are generally well known. This month, challenge yourself to find the lesser known, more obscure historic sites to find a unique or new perspective on our nation's history. For example, visit the [Stone Mansion](#) to learn about the life and times of Walter Brooke, a commodore of the Revolutionary War Navy of Virginia, friend of George Washington and first cousin to George Mason. Or, stop by [Pohick Church](#), where the Washingtons, Masons and Fairfaxes worshipped, and where you can still see the carved graffiti of Civil War soldiers who occupied the site.

With all this **amazing history** already on display in the District, we have two major new sites about to open to the public. The [Lucy Burns \(Suffragists\) Museum](#) at the [Workhouse Arts Center](#) is getting ready to open its doors. Watch for announcements of the first exhibits soon! In 2019, we look forward to celebrating the grand opening of the much anticipated [National Museum of the United States Army](#).

Our lives are forever intertwined with our history. Celebrating and learning from it is essential to honoring our ancestors and making our future brighter. As we **reflect on our history and ponder our connection to it**, I suggest that one great way to connect with our community is to learn more about the many historic and enriching places within **Destination Mount Vernon**.

Resolve to get involved in 2018!

Respectfully yours in public service,



Dan Storck
Supervisor, Mount Vernon District
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

January 2018 Activities:

- Phone calls: 1167
- Meetings: 66
- Hosted meetings: 17

Stay Connected:

Mount Vernon Governmental Center
2511 Parkers Lane
Mount Vernon, VA 22306
703-780-7518 (TTY 711) 703-780-1491 (fax)
mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov

Office Hours

Monday - Wednesday, Friday:
8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Thursday: 8:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Second Saturday Each Month.
Lorton Library: 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
MV District Office: 12:30 p.m. - 3 p.m.



Mount Vernon District Staff: Allison Miessler, Donna Slaymaker, Christine Morin, Supervisor Dan Storck, Camela Speer & Tae Choi

Walk-ins and by appointment



Mount Vernon District Town Meeting

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the 31st Mount Vernon Town Meeting!



Thanks to the approximately **400 residents** and over **70 vendors** that came out Saturday, and more than **500 who watched on live streaming channels**, this was the most viewed Town Meeting in 31 years! The morning began at 7:45 a.m. when the doors opened to the Exhibit Hall where Fairfax County agencies, non-profits organizations and other groups were able to connect with and answer questions from Mount Vernon District residents. This year, the town meeting theme was "**Community Engagement - Resolve to Get Involved**", and the focus was on how we can better connect our residents to each other, to available services and current events in Mount Vernon, and also help constituents understand the **importance of community engagement**. A highlight of the morning was a special presentation to **retiring Mount Vernon District Planning Commissioner Earl Flanagan**, recognizing his many years of service to the Mount Vernon District, in particular the last

twelve years as Planning Commissioner. The grand finale was a **virtual boating, driving and flying tour of the District**, highlighting changes throughout the past year and major improvements coming in the future.

Special thanks to opening ceremony participants **Harmony Heritage Singers, Belle View Elementary School Cub Scouts, Mount Vernon High School Marine Corps JROTC Color Guard** and former **Supervisor Gerry Hyland**; as well as our speakers **Chairman Sharon Bulova, Congressman Gerry Connolly, County Executive Bryan Hill, School Board Member Karen Corbett Sanders** and **Superintendent Scott Brabrand**.

[Click here](#) to see the Town Meeting mailer, including our 2017 accomplishments and 2018 focus.

[Click here](#) to watch the full Town Meeting on Facebook.

[Click here](#) to watch the virtual boating, driving, flying tour of the District.

Engage in Our Community in 2018!

Mount Vernon District 2018 Paving and Restriping Meeting



The Virginia Department of Transportation and Fairfax County Department of Transportation will host a community information meeting to discuss **this year's paving and restriping efforts in the Mount Vernon District on Monday, Feb. 12, from 7 to 8:30 p.m.**, at the [Mount Vernon Governmental Center](#). The meeting will provide residents with an opportunity to speak directly with road engineers and transportation planners about the paving program, proposed striping changes and general traffic safety concerns. Information about paving

and restriping in the Mount Vernon District will be on display in an open house format, with a presentation at 7:30 p.m.

Community members are invited to **provide feedback on general traffic safety concerns** regarding roads scheduled for paving, as well as the proposed striping changes, at the meeting or via the [Mount Vernon District information page](#) through March 2, 2018.

For more information on the 2018 Paving and Restriping Program, [click here](#). The [Mount Vernon District information page](#), includes maps, sample photos, the proposed list of roads being considered for paving and a link to the comment submission form.

In the News in Mount Vernon District



I was proud to join **Mount Vernon District's own Fire Station FS411 - Penn Daw** this week for **News4's Olympic Chili Cook Off**. Chef Shane and the crew at Station 11 showed News4's Molette Green how they make their 4-alarm chili. Station 11 competed against stations from Prince George's County, Adams Morgan and Prince William County. While Penn Daw competed valiantly, DC Fire and EMS Adams Morgan Station won this year's Chili Cook Off. [Click here](#) to watch Station 11 in the Cook Off and [click here](#) to see the crowning of

the winners.

On January 11, Mount Vernon resident **Dr. Suzy Broadhurst** was honored by the Animal Services Advisory Commission for the **outstanding work** that she has accomplished daily caring for all the animals at the **Fairfax Animal Shelter**. Dr. Broadhurst has provided veterinary services at the Shelter for the past three years and was recognized as an **exceptional animal advocate, vet and colleague** to not only the shelter staff, but also the Animal Protection Police Officers to whom she has provided critical,

authoritative expertise in animal related court cases. **Join me in wishing Dr. Broadhurst well** as she departs Fairfax to join her Coast Guard husband at his next assignment in Florida. She leaves behind a superb legacy.



The **Ecological Restoration and Management (ER&M) landscape company** was awarded a **Land Conservation Award for Tree Planting** on January 29. The award was given by the Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES) in recognition of ER&M's landscape implementation at the **Laurel Hill Adaptive Reuse Area**. DPWES noted this outstanding landscape planning and implementation created a **tree canopy that will increase in appeal as it matures**.

Upcoming Events & Meetings

February

thru 14		<u>Extended! Fairfax County's Zoning Modernization (ZMOD) Survey</u>	Click here to take the survey
thru Feb		<u>February Library Events</u>	Mount Vernon District Libraries
13	7 - 8:00 p.m.	<u>Family Caregiver Telephone Support Group</u>	Phone Meeting - Call 703-324-5484, TTY 711 to register
13	7:30 p.m.	<i>Monthly South County Federation - The Lorton Community Center and its location will be discussed to at this public meeting. Transportation is being provided from the Lorton Library. Click here for more information.</i>	South County HS
17	9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	<u>Stuff the Bus</u>	Kingstowne Giant
19		Fairfax County Government Offices Holiday Closure	Mount Vernon District Office
20	9:30 a.m.	<u>Board of Supervisors Meeting</u>	County Government Center
21	1 - 2:00 p.m.	<u>REVIVE! Training</u>	Gartlan Center
21	1 - 3:00 p.m.	<u>Fairfax Commission on Aging</u>	Mount Vernon District Office
22	7 - 9:00 p.m.	<i><u>Citizen Outreach Meeting - Odor Control Master Plan</u></i>	Noman M Cole Pollution Control Plant
26	7 - 8:30 p.m.	<i><u>Girls Who Code</u></i>	Mount Vernon Governmental Center
Feb 26 - Mar 26	1-3:00 p.m.	<u>Caring for You, Caring for Me</u>	Insight Memory Care Center
28	8:00 p.m.	<i><u>Monthly Mount Vernon Council of Citizen's Associations</u></i>	County Government Center

March

Starts 3		<i><u>Transportation Safety Certification Course (free, registration deadline Feb 19)</u></i>	Inova Fairfax Hospital
17	1 - 3:00 p.m.	<u>Teen Job Fair</u>	South County HS

18	1 - 5:00 p.m.	Ides of Bark	Gristmill
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New Mount Vernon District Website

If you have not yet visited our new District website, [take a look!](#) We are continuing to add new content, share community events and provide information to connect you to County resources and District communities. Some new site features include:

- [Community Event and Public Meetings Calendar](#)
- [On-line Community Meeting Room Booking](#)
- [Town Meeting Video, Virtual Boating, Driving, Flying Tour Video and Meeting Information](#)

As we add new features to the site, we will continue to let you know about them and solicit your feedback as to how we can provide the information you are looking for!

Opioid Disposal Options

As the **opioid epidemic grows** throughout the country, communities are actively looking for ways to help curb abuse and misuse. New this year, **Supervisor Storck's office now provides free drug deactivation kits**. In addition, **Walmart has launched a first-of-its kind opioid disposal solution**, available at no cost in all company pharmacies. Walmart also continues to offer counseling to Walmart patients on proper opioid use when filling an opioid prescription at any one of its 4,700 pharmacies nationwide.

Stop by any of these locations to pick up your disposal kit today!

Downsizing for Older Adults

Watch this informative video on Downsizing for Older Adults:



Important Safety Messages

Where to Report High Risk Trees in Fairfax County

The County receives many inquiries regarding trees that are a potential high risk to the public. Below is a rough guideline on how potential high risk trees are reported and processed by the County.

If the tree is on private property and threatens the general public, or if you are not sure, call the Fairfax County Urban Forest Management Division (UFMD) at

(703) 324-1700 TTY 711. UFMD verify ownership and assess the degree of risk the tree presents to the general public. If the tree is determined to be a hazard to the general public, then UFMD will issue a health and safety code enforcement violation and require the property owner to remove the tree, or part of the tree, that is a hazard.

[Read more...](#)



Code Compliance Corner

Residential Fences and Walls - Article 10-104 of the Zoning Ordinance regulates the location and height of fences and walls on residential properties. Building permits are not required for fences of any height, but are required for certain retaining walls. The locations of fences and walls are restricted in front, side and rear yards. Additionally, fences installed at intersections must provide adequate sight distance for motorists approaching an intersection to provide a clear, unobstructed view of approaching traffic.

If you have questions concerning the height or location of fences or walls in your neighborhood, you may file a complaint with the Department of Code Compliance (DCC). For more information, visit the [DCC website](#) or see the [Residential Fences and Walls Flyer](#).

Real Food for Kids' 6th Culinary Challenge

Real Food for Kids will hold its **6th Annual Culinary Challenge & Wellness Expo** on **March 17, 2018**

at **Hayfield Secondary School**. The event will feature 11 student teams competing to create a lunch that meets USDA guidelines for school meals and 8 teams participating in a showcase of breakfast and snack dishes that could be adapted for school use.

Last year's winning entry, a **Chicken Shawarma** created by students at **Lake Braddock Secondary School**, is now on regular rotation in Fairfax County middle and high schools.



Mount Vernon District participating schools this year include: **West Potomac High School, Sandburg Middle School** and **Mount Vernon High School**.

The Culinary Challenge features a **Public Tasting** and a **Wellness Expo** featuring speakers and panelists on topics related to the culinary experience, nutrition, health, wellness and careers.

[Registration for the event](#) opened on February 1, 2018.

Community Information

County Resources Can Help During Tax Filing Season

It's time to start thinking about filing federal and state taxes. And, there is some good news! We can make your life a little easier with free county resources to help you get through the tax season.

- Income tax preparation.
- Tax information.
- Tax relief workshops.

[Find out what is available at NewsCenter.](#)

Are You and Your Family Prepared for a Disaster?

Do you have a family plan? Do you have emergency supplies for your family and pets if the power is out and the roads are closed for a few days or longer? What if you have to evacuate? What if someone gets hurt and rescue crews cannot get to you right away? These are all important questions and there are good answers.



Fairfax County participates in a National Program that trains and prepares citizens for all kinds of disasters, and **THE TRAINING IS FREE! Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** training is presented by certified instructors in eight 3.5 hour sessions. Training is informative, practical, hands on, challenging and open to the general public. The next class will be offered at Fort Belvoir on Thursday evenings **beginning on March 22, 2018**. Class size is limited. Participants must be at least 16 years old.

[Register Today!](#)

[Read more...](#)

Fairfax County Emergency Preparedness

As the emergency management community recovers from the recent false alert sent by Hawaii's Emergency Management Agency, **here's what your local emergency managers are doing** to ensure the effectiveness of Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) across Fairfax County.

A message from the Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management:

In order for the Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management to send a WEA message to Fairfax County residents, one of our trained Duty Officers must initiate the message by manually entering two separate randomized passwords. The platform used to distribute WEA messages clearly states to the Duty Officer that the message is going to be delivered over the live system and requires the Duty Officer to acknowledge. Further, the Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management has partnered with the City of Fairfax Emergency Management Agency to conduct refresher training and testing with FEMA on the use of WEA messaging. While we have taken further steps to ensure a false alert to Fairfax County residents will not occur, our office stands ready to utilize the WEA system in the event it is needed.

- **So what are WEA messages?**
- **Are WEA messages different from local alerts?**
- **Is my mobile device WEA-capable?**
- **What should I do when I receive a WEA message?**
- **So what to do in case of a radiation emergency:**
Rule of thumb: If you are safe where you are, stay where you are!
- **Stay informed!**

[Read more...](#)

Mount Vernon District Teen Job Fairs

Our office will be hosting two upcoming teen job fairs at South County High School on March 17 and Mount Vernon High School on April 14. These fairs are open to all Fairfax County high school students and are an excellent opportunity to find new talent for your business. If you are interested in joining us to as a vendor for one or both of these great events, [click here](#).

If you are a Fairfax County student and interested in information about all the job fairs being offered in the County, [click here](#).

Here's the ultimate event
for you and your four-footed friend!

The Ides of Bark!

Sunday, March 18, 2018
1-4 p.m.
Grist Mill Park
4710 Mt. Vernon Memorial Hwy, Alexandria

4th annual festival for dogs and their owners

Games • Prizes • Food • Fun
Vendors • Health Assessments
Free Admission!

Demonstrations by the
Fairfax County Police K-9 Unit

License your dog with Fairfax County.
\$10 (Cash or check)
owners must show proof of
a current rabies shot.

Sponsored by Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck

Inclusion and ADA
Support 703-324-8727.
TTY: Va Relay 711.

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks

Fairfax Alerts

"In the know, on the go."

Fairfax County's FREE alert system sends you important information during an emergency, helps you navigate your commute and shares community information.

You can also customize your Fairfax Alerts to receive the information pertinent to you. Don't miss this important information! Sign up today for Fairfax Alerts at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts.



Boards, Authorities and Commission Members Needed

Help serve your community by serving on a Fairfax County Board, Authority or Commission. Please ask your friends, neighbors and community members if they are willing to help serve Fairfax County. Supervisor Storck has vacancies on:

Airports Advisory Commission

To advise the Board on all airports and aircraft operations affecting Fairfax County. To expand the committee's responsibilities and feasibility of establishing a countywide aircraft noise complaint center.



Commission on Aging

To identify and promote better understanding of the problems of the aging and to plan and promote and where it is found necessary, conduct activities to contribute to their well-being. Meetings are at 12:00 p.m. on the third Wednesday of every month, except August.

Small Business Commission

The purpose of the Fairfax County Small Business Commission is to: (a) study, report and make recommendations on issues of concern to small businesses in Fairfax County; (b) advise and assist the Board of Supervisors, County Executive and County employees on any matter that will enhance the capability of small businesses to succeed in Fairfax County; and (c) promote and assist small businesses generally, but especially with respect to minority-owned and emerging businesses, to establish themselves, develop, and succeed in their pursuits of commercial opportunities and in their vendor relations with Fairfax County. Meetings are usually last Monday of every month @ 7:00 p.m. in Conference Room 9 or 10, Fairfax County Govt. Center.

Volunteering on these committees increases citizen participation in our district. If you are interested in serving on a county board, authority, commission, or committee (BAC), please provide a current résumé to Donna.Slaymaker@fairfaxcounty.gov.

For more information, please download the [brochure](#) for a brief guide to BACs, or learn more on the county website [here](#).